

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/034,239

Examiner

Xu Mei

Applicant(s)

BLIND ET AL.

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 12/19/2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/19/2001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Art Unit: 2644

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hoffman discloses an RF modulator amplifier with pre-amp and power amp that having an RF drive limiter for bias control.

Sugai et al discloses an FM receiver including a noise detection circuit and an AGC circuit with level setting control.

Ishikawa discloses an FMX stereophonic receiver including level detection and VCA.

Kosugi discloses a transmitter with power amplifier and gain control by an envelope control signal.

Manlove et al discloses an AM stereo receiver with out of lock detector and variable gain control.

Gottfried et al discloses a circuit for controlling FM receiver for reducing multipath distortion.

Behan et al discloses an amplifier with detuned test signal cancellation having feed forward signal control.

Blodgett discloses a feed forward amplifier that including a main amplifier and gain and phase adjuster with detection control.

Cova et al discloses an RF power amplifier with feed-forward and distortion rejection control.

Rychlak discloses a stereo radio receiver with detector for separation control.

Lau et al discloses a multi-channel audio signal limiter with shared clip detection and gain control.

Hanajima et al discloses a howling eliminating circuit including preamplifier, power amplifier and variable amplifier gain control.

2. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The prior art fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus and method thereof, that specifically including a pre-amplifier coupled to an audio source which generating an audio signal and having a controllable gain for pre-amplifying the audio signal; a power amplifier coupled to the pre-amplifier and having a substantially fixed gain for amplifying the pre-amplified audio signal; a threshold adjuster for generating a distortion threshold representative of an amount of distortion to be allowed to be introduced by the power amplifier in response to a frequency content of the audio signal; a distortion detector coupled to the power amplifier and generating a distortion signal in response to the distortion threshold and the audio signal; a gain limiter for reducing the controllable gain if the distortion signal exceeds said distortion threshold as recited in independent claims 1 and 10. Applicant's invention comprises a particular combination of elements and functional steps that is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.


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3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xu Mei whose telephone number is 703-308-6610. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:30-6:00), alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forester W Isen can be reached on 703-305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Xu Mei
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2644
11/24/2004